

Amendments to the Claims

Complete listing of the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting device comprising:

a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and including a plate portion and a thicker shield portion, and said plate portion having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade;

a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;

a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,

said head member having a cutting chamber between said shield portion and said plate portion and said transverse slit extending in said plate portion away from said cutting chamber;

a connector pin operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and being slidably received in an elongate slot in said plate portion;

said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit; and

each of said legs having a bifurcated upper end defining a slot which receives said plate portion of said head member so that, when said first and second legs are in an open position, said cutting blade is in a retracted condition within the transverse slit in said plate portion of said head member, and when said first and second legs are pivoted ~~about their respective mountings to~~ on said head member to a closed position, said connector pin is caused to move in said elongate slot generally along an axis of said slot to cause said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit and across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion.

2. (Previously Presented) The cutting device of claim 1, wherein when the first and second legs are moved into a fully closed position, the cutting blade extends into a corresponding slit positioned in the shield portion opposite the transverse slit in the head member.

3. (Original) The cutting device of claim 2, wherein the cutting blade has a centrally located cutting tip.
4. (Previously Presented) The cutting device of claim 3, wherein said cutting tip is located in axial alignment with said elongate slot.
5. (Original) The cutting device of claim 2, wherein the cutting blade is angled upwardly away from an enclosed portion of said cutting chamber.
6. (Original) The cutting device of claim 1, wherein a guide is located in said transverse slit, said guide is on either side of the cutting blade, and wherein said cutting blade rides between said guide during movement.
7. (Currently Amended) A cutting device comprising:
 - a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade;
 - a shield portion connected to said head portion;
 - a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;
 - a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit;
 - said head member having a cutting chamber below said shield portion and said transverse slit extending in said head portion away from said cutting chamber;
 - a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and being slidably received in an elongate slot in said head member;
 - said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit;
 - so that, when said first and second legs are pivoted ~~about their respective mountings~~ on said head member to a closed position, said connector is caused to move in said elongate slot causing said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit and across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion;
 - a guide being located in said transverse slit, said guide being on either side of the cutting blade;

and said cutting blade riding between said guide during movement of said cutting blade and said guide being defined by two, parallel spaced pins in said transverse slit that are made of stainless steel.

8. (Currently Amended) A cutting device comprising:

a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and including a plate portion and a thicker shield portion outwardly of said plate portion, and said plate portion having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade,

a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;

a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,

said head member having a cutting chamber between said shield portion and said plate portion and said transverse slit extending in said head member away from said cutting chamber;

a connector pin operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and being slidably received in an elongate slot in said plate portion;

said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit

so that, when said first and second legs are in an open position, said cutting blade is in a retracted condition within the transverse slit in said head member, and when said first and second legs are pivoted ~~about their respective mountings to~~ on said head member to a closed position, said connector pin is caused to move in said elongate slot generally along an axis of said slot to cause said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit and across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion and, when the legs are in the closed position, the legs form a key ring opening between the legs at an end of the cutting device opposite of the shield portion.

9. (Currently Amended) A cutting device comprising:

a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade;

a shield portion connected to said head member;

a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;
a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,
said head member having a cutting chamber below said shield portion and said transverse slit extending in said plate portion away from said cutting chamber;
a connector pin operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and being slidably received in an elongate slot in said head member;
said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit
so that, when said first and second legs are in an open position, said cutting blade is in a retracted condition within the transverse slit in said head member, and when said first and second legs are pivoted ~~about their respective mountings to~~ on said head member to a closed position, said connector pin is caused to move in said elongate slot generally along an axis of said slot to cause said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit and across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion and a first leg extension being movable within said first leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position and a second leg extension being movable within said second leg said second leg extension is movable from a first retracted position to a second extended position.

10. (Original) The cutting device of claim 9, further including locking means for locking the legs in a closed position when the first and second leg extensions are positioned in the first retracted position.

11. (Original) The cutting device of claim 10, wherein one of the leg extensions includes a latch, wherein when said leg extension is moved into its first retracted position when the legs are in the closed position, the latch engages a portion of the other leg extension wherein the legs become locked in the closed position.

12. (Previously Presented) A cutting device comprising:

a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade;

a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;
a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit;
said head member having a cutting chamber between said shield portion and said plate portion and said transverse slit extending in said head portion away from said cutting chamber;
a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and being slidably received in an elongate slot in said head member;
said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit,
so that, when to said head member is moved to a closed position, said connector is caused to move in said elongate slot generally along an axis of said slot to cause said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion, and one of the leg extensions including a J-shaped latch, wherein when said leg extension is moved into its first retracted position when the legs are in the closed position, the latch engages a portion of the other leg extension wherein the legs become locked in the closed position.

13. (Previously Presented) The cutting device of claim 1, wherein said cutting surface of said shield portion is positioned 0.25 inches or less from said plate portion of said head member across said cutting chamber.

14. (Previously Presented) A cutting device comprising:

a head member having a slot therein and a transverse slit and having a cutting blade disposed in said slit in said head member;
first and second legs each being pivotally mounted to said head member;
a connector pin operatively connected to one leg and to said cutting blade, being received in said slot and being operative to move the cutting edge of said cutting blade in and out of said slit in said plate portion of said head member on pivotal movement of said first leg;
a shield portion connected to said head member and being disposed in a path of said cutting blade so that, when said first and second legs are in an open position, said cutting blade is in a retracted condition generally within said slit in

said head member, and when said first and second legs are pivoted on said head member to a closed position, said connector pin is caused to move in said slot in said head member generally along an axis of said slot to move said cutting blade in a direction toward said shield portion.

15. (Previously Presented) The cutting device of claim 14, wherein said shield portion includes a cutting surface and wherein when the first and second side legs are in said closed position an outer portion of said cutting blade extends into said shield portion.

16. (Original) The cutting device of claim 15, wherein said cutting surface is triangular.

17. (Previously Presented) The cutting device of claim 15, wherein a cutting chamber is defined between said head member and said shield portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The cutting device of claim 14, wherein the cutting blade is positioned between a guide located within the slit in the head member.

19. (Previously Presented) The cutting device of claim 18, wherein said guide comprises two parallel pins that are made of stainless steel.

20. (Original) The cutting device of claim 14, wherein when the legs are in the closed position, the legs form a key ring opening.

21. (Original) The cutting device of claim 14, further including a first leg extension movable within said first leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position and a second leg extension movable within said second leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position.

22. (Original) The cutting device of claim 21, further including locking means for locking the legs in a closed position when the first and second leg extensions are positioned in the first retracted position.

23. (Original) The cutting device of claim 21, wherein one of the leg extensions includes a latch, and when said leg extension is moved into its first retracted position when the legs are in the closed position, the latch engages a portion of the other leg or leg extension and the first and second legs become locked in the closed position.

24. (Previously Presented) The cutting device of claim 23 wherein said latch is J-shaped.

25. (Original) The cutting device of claim 17, the cutting chamber has a width of less than 0.25 inches.

26. (Previously Presented) A cutting device for severing plastic restraints comprising:

- a head member having a cutting blade disposed therein, having a pin receiving slot and having a transverse slit for receiving said cutting blade;

- first and second legs pivotally mounted to said head member;

- a connector pin received in said slot and operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade;

- said cutting blade being movable within said slit along an axis and said slot lying generally on said axis;

- a shield portion connected to said head member and being disposed in a path of said cutting blade;

- said head member having a cutting chamber defined between said shield portion and said head member for placement of the plastic restraints to be severed;

- said cutting blade having a cutting surface movable into said cutting chamber when said first and second legs are pivoted from an open position to a closed position and out of said cutting chamber when said first and second legs are pivoted to an open position, causing said connector pin to move in said slot generally along an axis of said slot to cause said cutting blade to move in and out of said slit.

27. (Original) The cutting device of claim 26, wherein the cutting blade has an outer contact point and angled cutting surfaces extending from either side of the outer contact point and wherein the outer contact point of the cutting blade is positioned such that the outer contact point of the cutting blade contacts the restraint when the restraint is positioned within the cutting chamber.

28. (Original) The cutting device of claim 27, wherein when the legs are moved into their closed position the cutting blade severs the restraint from where the cutting blade contacts the restraint towards the sides of said restraint.

29. (Original) The cutting device of claim 29, wherein a central portion of said restraint is positioned in the path of an outer cutting tip of the cutting blade.

30. (Original) The cutting device of claim 29, wherein a central portion of said restraint is positioned in the path of an outer cutting tip of the cutting blade.

31. (Original) The cutting device of claim 29, wherein the cutting blade is upwardly angled from the enclosed end of the cutting chamber whereby the restraint is pinned between the cutting blade and the enclosed end and the restraint is severed from a first side of the restraint to a second side of the restraint located nearer to the enclosed end of the chamber.

~~33~~ 32. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 26, wherein a key ring is formed between the legs when the legs are in a closed positioned.